Unknown

From: Karen Rehfeld [karen_rehfeld@gov.state.ak.us]

Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2007 1:15 PM

To: Mary Hakala

Cc: Governor Sarah Palin; Roger L Sampson; Michael A Tibbles; John W Bitney; Eddy Jeans

Subject: Re: FW: Great Alaska Schools - Ask Legislators to do right by Alaska's kids

Hi Mary - The legislature certainly wrestled with education funding this session. Certainly some significant pieces, including the $77.5 million for TRS to buy the rate down to 12.56%, 50% of the ISER study, and over $21 million for school improvement grants will make a difference at the classroom level. Legislative action to put $1 billion of the FY2007 surplus into the public education fund provides a tremendous oppportunity to actually achieve forward and early funding. The commitment of the legislature to work on the funding formula over the interim with recommended changes by September 1 is also good news so that the public and school districts will be able to weigh in on the work of the task force. The administration is committed to working with the legislature on this issue.

Thanks for all the hard work you do for Alaska's students and families! Karen

Mary Hakala wrote:

Dear Governor Palin, and Karen,

I am forwarding a message sent to our Great Alaska School, Citizen Coalition (volunteer email network) about 8 days ago. I believe the counsel on education funding is as pertinent today, as then. The closed doors negotiations, and lack of public process by the Alaska Legislature is unwarranted and wrong.

However, in the short term, kids deserve access to improvements and and resources. Simply because there has been an intolerable process is no excuse to NOT invest sufficiently to make a difference at the classroom level.

I urge you to take the lead and influence this process at the 11th hour. Alaska's students deserve more than status quo quality, whether they live in rural or urban Alaska. It is time to add something at the classroom level (exceeding retirement and maintenance level costs).

In the longer term, work with the Legislature to resolve this impasse. All kids deserve a great education. It's time Alaska took a long hard look at what it takes to make this possible.

Thank you.

Mary Hakala, Coordinator (volunteer)
Great Alaska Schools, A Citizen Coalition
Juneau 907-780-4640
Cell 321-2705

------ Forwarded Message
From: Hakala Ord <williwaw@earthlink.net>
Date: Tue, 8 May 2007 13:22:58 -0800
To: Mary Hakala <mhakala@gospringboard.org>

Cc: Hakala Ord <williwaw@earthlink.net>
Subject: Fwd: Great Alaska Schools - Ask Legislators to do right by Alaska's kids

Begin forwarded message:

From: Hakala Ord <williwaw@earthlink.net>
Date: May 7, 2007 10:44:24 PM AKDT
To: Great Alaska Schools Ord <williwaw@earthlink.net>
Subject: Great Alaska Schools - Ask Legislators to do right by Alaska's kids

Great Alaska Schools ~

The oil lobby is powerful in Alaska, and has been for a long long time. The news of the last few days is sobering, but the influence of big oil should never be minimized. It is merely more evident now.

However, there is another more powerful, and ethical lobby. It is citizens, like us, who care enough to speak up on issues near and dear to us. There is no monetary gain. Only the incentive to create stronger, more vibrant communities and better schools where our children, our neighbors children, truly have the opportunity to learn and thrive.

It is time for us to speak up, as loudly and as articulately as we can. AND as quickly as we can. There are but 9 days left in the legislative session, and school funding remains in limbo. Legislators are rewriting the foundation formula behind closed doors, without benefit of public input or scrutiny. This is wrong. Nothing as essential and fundamentally important as public school funding should be negotiated behind closed doors, with no opportunity for public debate and oversight.

At this point, we still do not know whether Legislative proposals will mean increases, cuts, or status quo funding for schools. The last proposal that was discussed openly included increases for some districts, cuts for some (including Juneau), and status quo funding for others.

Our message: End this session on a positive note. Invest in Alaska's kids. If the Legislature intends to address substantive changes in the school funding formula, revisit these changes next session in the clear light of day, with full public input. Meanwhile, we challenge the Alaska State Legislature to actually make a difference at the classroom level for students across Alaska. Fund schools so that kids actually feel the difference.

School Boards have long lists of needs - whether text books, computers, teacher training, classroom supplies, substitute teachers, pay for special education aids. Each district's needs are somewhat different. However, School Boards are doing their best to address the complex job of helping all kids succeed, and we, the citizens, are watch dogging that process at the local level.

Here is the legislative list, corrected for one error.

Representative_Mark_Neuman@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Representative_Mark_Neuman@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Representative_Carl_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Representative_Carl_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Representative_Bob_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Representative_Bob_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Representative_Bill_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Representative_Bill_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Representative_Peggy_Wilson@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Representative_Peggy_Wilson@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Representative_Woodie_Salmon@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Representative_Woodie_Salmon@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Rep_Bob_Buch@legis.state.ak.us <mailto:Rep_Bob_Buch@legis.state.ak.us> ,
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Representative_Sharon_Cissna@legis.state.ak.us
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Representative_Harry_Crawford@legis.state.ak.us
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Representative_Nancy_Dahlstrom@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Representative_Nancy_Dahlstrom@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Rep_Mike_Doogan@legis.state.ak.us <mailto:Rep_Mike_Doogan@legis.state.ak.us> ,
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Representative_Berta_Gardner@legis.state.ak.us
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Representative_David_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us
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<mailto:Representative_Mike_Hawker@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Rep_Lindsey_Holmes@legis.state.ak.us <mailto:Rep_Lindsey_Holmes@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Rep_Kyle_Johansen@legis.state.ak.us <mailto:Rep_Kyle_Johansen@legis.state.ak.us> ,
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Representative_Mary_Kapsner@legis.state.ak.us
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Representative_Kurt_Olson@legis.state.ak.us
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Representative_Jay_Ramras@legis.state.ak.us
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Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us
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Representative_Paul_Seaton@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Representative_Paul_Seaton@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Senator_Fred_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us <mailto:Senator_Fred_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Senator_Lyda_Green@legis.state.ak.us <mailto:Senator_Lyda_Green@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Senator_Gary_Wilken@legis.state.ak.us <mailto:Senator_Gary_Wilken@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Senator_Kim_Elton@legis.state.ak.us <mailto:Senator_Kim_Elton@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Senator_Donny_Olson@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Senator_Donny_Olson@legis.state.ak.us> , Senator_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Senator_Con_Bunde@legis.state.ak.us> , Senator_John_Cowdery@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Senator_John_Cowdery@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Senator_Bettye_Davis@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Senator_Bettye_Davis@legis.state.ak.us> , Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us> , Senator_Hollis_French@legis.state.ak.us

<mailto:Senator Hollis French@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Senator Lyman Hoffman@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Senator Lyman Hoffman@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Senator Charlie Huggins@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Senator Charlie Huggins@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Senator Albert Kookesh@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Senator Albert Kookesh@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Senator Bert Stedman@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Senator Bert Stedman@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Senator Gary Stevens@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Senator Gary Stevens@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Senator Gene Therriault@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Senator Gene Therriault@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Senator Thomas Wagoner@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Senator Thomas Wagoner@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Senator Joe Thomas@legis.state.ak.us <mailto:Senator Joe Thomas@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Senator Bill Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Senator Bill Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us> ,
Senator Lesil McGuire@legis.state.ak.us
<mailto:Senator Lesil McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>

Here's a message idea:

To the Alaska State Legislature,

End this session on a positive note. How? By increasing your investment in Alaska's students. I am a parent of ________________. My children need and deserve great schools. It takes more than wishful thinking, or punitive laws to improve Alaska's schools. Funding is pivotal in determining the quality of Alaska's schools. I ask that you go beyond funding the status quo, and invest more. Increase resources available to Alaska's teachers, and opportunities for Alaska's kids.

If you enact substantive changes in the foundation formula, I ask that you revisit these changes next session, with full public debate and participation. Something as critical as funding of public education should not be decided behind closed doors, at the end of the legislative session.

Sincerely,

____

You can also go to www.legis.state.ak.us <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/> to send a Public Opinion Message, track issues, or find legislators' phone numbers.
In addition to emails, phone calls to legislators are great !

Take 10 minutes now to call or write your legislators, or all legislators (above) while it's on your mind.
Time is of the essence.

Your voice matters.

Mary Hakala, Coordinator
Great Alaska Schools, A Citizen Coalition

------ End of Forwarded Message

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Karen J. Rehfeld

Office of Management & Budget

465-4660

Unknown

From: Meghan N Stapleton [meghan_stapleton@gov.state.ak.us]
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2007 1:00 AM
To: gov.sarah@yahoo.com
Cc: Michael A Tibbles; Rehfeld; Karen J (GOV); Sharon W Leighow; John W Bitney; Christopher G Clark; Lauren J Yocom
Subject: GOVERNOR END OF SESSION SPEECH

Attached is the proposed speech for the press conference tomorrow, tentatively scheduled for 11am. Please look through and provide any input as quickly as possible. I believe it reflects a conversation with Karen, Sharon, and Chris post press availability early this morning.

I have a meeting with gasline members at 8am and will not be available until 9am. Unless you are the Governor, please only make factual changes at this point, as everyone most assuredly would have other changes as well.

I've added a few possible Q&As at the bottom - if they need amending, let me know. Any changes that you make and forward, please cc: all so that we know what's been said and we don't have numerous versions out there.

Thank you!

Meg

Unknown

From: Mike Tibbles [mike_tibbles@gov.state.ak.us]
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2007 9:46 AM
To: gov.sarah@yahoo.com
Subject: RE: GOVERNOR END OF SESSION SPEECH

Here is some language on ocean rangers (if asked by a reporter).

Ocean Rangers

Our intention is to implement the initiative as approved by the voters. We understand that it will take some time this first year to ramp up and fully implement the program. Regarding the level of funding, we do not believe that we can develop a responsible plan with only $1.2 million. We will do the best we can but we may need to request a supplemental appropriation. The legislature has indicated that they would support such a request.

-----Original Message-----

From: gov.sarah@yahoo.com [mailto:gov.sarah@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2007 1:02 AM

To: Meghan N Stapleton

Cc: Michael A Tibbles; Karen J Rehfeld; Sharon W Leighow; John W Bitney; Christopher G Clark; lauren_yocom@gov.state.ak.us

Subject: Re: GOVERNOR END OF SESSION SPEECH

Thanks all!

I'll look through also.

Tonight was a great night - we're blessed.

-----Original Message-----

From: Meghan N Stapleton <meghan_stapleton@gov.state.ak.us>

Date: Thu, 17 May 2007 01:00:29

To:gov.sarah@yahoo.com

Cc:mike_tibbles@gov.state.ak.us,
karen_rehfeld@gov.state.ak.us,sharon_leighow@gov.state.ak.us,
john_bitney@gov.state.ak.us,christopher_clark@gov.state.ak.us,

lauren_yocom@gov.state.ak.us

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